Challenges for NGOs

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The World Summit for Social Development

Bella Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

Pre-Summit Consultations 6-10 March 1995

World Summit 11-12 March 1995

UNITED NATIONS

PARTICIPANTS

Heads of State and Government will attend the two day Summit (11-12 March), while their representatives and other high-level officials and experts will participate in the pre-Summit consultations. Participants and observers will also include UN system organizations, intergovernmental organizations, national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), experts, professional associations and accredited NGOs.

NGOs:
NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), expressing the wish to attend the World Summit for Social Development and/or the PrepCom meetings, will be accredited for participation. Other non-ECOSOC NGOs may apply to the Summit Secretariat responsible for evaluation of accreditation requests (see provisions under "NGO Participation in the Summit"on page 7 of this brochure).

KEY SUMMIT AGENDA ISSUES

Enhancing Social Integration: Creating a "society for all" means that disadvantaged and marginalized groups must be "brought in from the cold", both literally and figuratively, through equal access to opportunity, absence of discrimination and active participation.

Alleviating and Reducing Poverty: The Summit hopes to achieve consensus at the highest levels on the kinds of economic policies which will enhance productive employment; i.e., both economic and social efficiency in an environmentally sustainable manner.

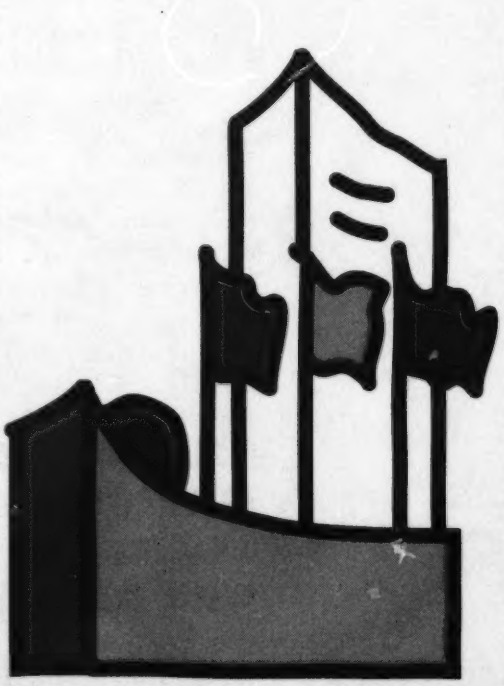
Expanding Productive Employment: As primary causes of poverty, migration and unrest, unemployment and low-productivity employment must be replaced by more productive work opportunities; i.e., higher rates of economic growth, more jobs and a better balance between quantity and quality of jobs.

PROMOTING SOCIAL PROGRESS...

The United Nations Charter, in its Preamble, expresses the commitment of the people:

- "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom;
- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours; and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples".

Article 55 of the Charter endorses the promotion of "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development".



CREATING NEW APPROACHES TO OLD PROBLEMS...

"...The Summit, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, will lay the foundations of the work of the United Nations in the social development sphere for generations to come. It will be the culmination of a process of rethinking which began with the collapse of bi-polarity. The task before you is not an easy one. We are beginning to develop new interpretations of social policy and development. The new approach must be inclusive, must encompass all aspects of social, economic and environmental life and must seek to promote a society in which each and every individual has the potential and opportunity to become involved in development. We are abandoning the fragmented compartmentalized approach of the past which failed to concentrate on the dynamics of whole societies. We now are beginning to see the interrelationships which exist between social, economic and political life. To move from these general propositions to practical guildelines for international action and cooperation will not be straightforward. A great deal of discussion and negotiation will be required. Old notions and old methods of working will need to be revised and some entirely new approaches must be created."

- Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Address to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Social Development, 12 April 1993

THE UNITED NATIONS AND NGOs: LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

"The United Nations has much to learn from NGOs... Many of the strengths of NGOs are well known. You have a special ability to reach targeted groups. Your organizations have more flexible and informal structures. You have access to private funds, an ability to by-pass red tape, and highly motivated staffs. NGOs can also mobilize public support for securing donor assistance and for influencing the use of such assistance...but there is also much that NGOs can learn from the United Nations."

- Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Remarks to the Panel on African Development and the 46th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, 17 April/8 September 1993

LOOKING TOWARDS THE SUMMIT: 46th ANNUAL NGO/DPI CONFERENCE

NGOs have made an early start on activities geared towards the Social Summit. In preparation, from 8-10 September 1993, some 1,400 representatives of DPI-associated NGOs attended the 46th Annual NGO/DPI Conference held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This conference drew participants from amongst 370 NGOs, 45 countries and many UN system agencies.

The theme was "Social Development: A New Definition for Security". As the Conference unfolded, it became clear that NGOs were already making a substantial contribution to the early stages of this Summit.

NGO input is vital. Strengthening active collaboration between NGOs and the United Nations throughout the Summit "process" is imperative to translating policy into practice. And post-Summit success in the "real world" will depend, to a large extent, on support from the NGO community worldwide.

As a preliminary "blueprint for NGO action",

the Final Report of the 1993 Annual NGO/DPI Conference should serve not only as a report of the proceedings but also as a primer for NGOs involved in preparations for the Social Summit.
For your copy of this report,
Social Development:
A New Definition for Security,
please contact:
NGO Section, Department of Public Information
United Nations, 801 UN Plaza, Room U-104
New York, NY 10021, USA
Tel. (212) 963 7236, Fax: (212) 963 6914

NGOs PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT

20 - 22 April, 1993, Santiago de Chile
The People's Alliance for Social Development created five "themes for sustainable human development" around which to focus NGO preparations for the Summit:

- Equity and Social Justice;
- The Strengthening of Civil Society;
- Peoples' Rights to Participation and Good Governance;
- Structural Causes of Poverty; and
- Promotion of Pluralism and Cultural Identity.

The People's Alliance will hold regional consultations in various parts of the world during 1994/95 to support NGO contributions to the Summit.
For additional details, contact:

South American Peace Commission
P.O. Box 16085
Correo 9, Juan Williams Noon 643
Antonio Varas alt 640 Providencia
Santiago, Chile
Tel. (562) 235 7117, Fax: (562) 236 0279

Int'l Council for Adult Education
P.O.Box 2-D
Centro El Canelo de Nos
Avda. Portales 3020, Nos
San Bernardo, Chile
Tel: (562) 857 1780, Fax: (562) 857 1160

5 February 1994 , New York
Social Summit Consultation for NGOs sponsored by the Facilitating Committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (CONGO). For details, contact:
Robert Harris
Education International
57 ch. Moïse-Duboule
CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.(4122) 788 7300, Fax: (4122) 788 7330.

July 1994, Helsinki
The International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) are holding regional consultations, as well as a global NGO Preparatory Meeting, for the Social Summit in conjunction with ICSW's International Conference on Social Welfare.
For further details, contact:

ICVA
13, rue Gautier
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. (4122) 732 6600, Fax: (4122) 738 9904

ICSW
380 St. Antoine Street West, Suite 3200
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3X7
Tel. (514) 287 3280, Fax: (514) 987 1567

SETTING THE STAGE: THE UN PREPARATORY PROCESS

WHO:
The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the World Summit on Social Development comprises all United Nations Member States, as well as members of UN specialized agencies. A core Bureau is chaired by Ambassador Juan O. Somavia (Chile), with representatives from Cameroon, Zimbabwe, India, Indonesia, Poland, the Netherlands, Australia, Mexico and Latvia, as well as Denmark (Summit host country *ex-officio* member), serving as Vice-Chairpersons. UN preparations for the Summit are being coordinated by a small secretariat headed by Jacques Baudot under the responsibility of Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

WHERE:
All substantive PrepCom meetings will be held in New York.

WHEN:
There will be four substantive PrepComs:

31 January - 11 February 1994, New York
Focus of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee
- Report of the Secretary-General
- Reports from expert meetings
- Reports/Documents on UN specialized agencies/ programmes

For this PrepCom, international cooperation in five areas pertaining to the Summit will be discussed:
- Raising awareness (enhancing conventional methods)
- Exchanging information and experience (social indicators)
- Establishing policy dialogue in areas of international concern (NGO potential as catalysts and re-disseminators)
- Developing norms, standards, conventions and other international instruments (quantified targets)
- Identifying areas of cooperation and direct support for developing countries

22 August - 2 September 1994, New York
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee

September - December 1994, New York
49th Session of the General Assembly
- Reports from First and Second PrepCom meetings

16 - 27 January 1995, New York
Third Session of the Preparatory Committee

6 -12 March 1995, Copenhagen
World Summit for Social Development

WHAT WE NEED

Staking our Claims:
According to General Assembly Resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, which convened this Summit, it will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- A new development consensus: namely, that

Development =
Economic Growth + Environmental Concerns + Social Concerns

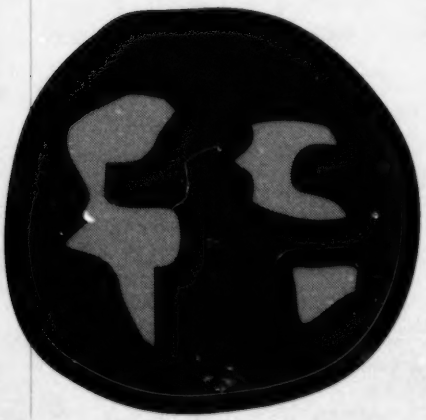
- Agreement on feasible social change between 1995 and the year 2000;
- Tentative agreement on longer-term challenges to be pursued and a possible follow-up Summit in the year 2000;
- A shared worldwide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development;
- Cooperation as a major priority in international relations;

- Establishing a balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities; and
- Awareness and integration of socially marginalized groups into society.

Setting our Sights

In a preview of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-sponsored publication, **Human Development Report 1994,** Mahbub ul-Haq, Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator, confirmed that the Summit must set its sights high, ultimately striving for no less than:

- A new consensus on development, integrating sustainable economic, human and environmental development into one over-arching concept;
- A new framework of development cooperation, focused on poverty alleviation and sustainable development concerns rather than on cold war alliances;
- A new national and global governance which places people at the very centre of development; and
- A concrete global compact for a new World Charter aimed at securing greater equality of opportunity for all peoples.



THE SUMMIT: CHALLENGES TO NGOs

In order to strengthen their own impact on the outcome of the Social Summit, NGOs participating in the 46th Annual NGO/DPI Conference in September 1993, agreed that they must:

- Ensure an active NGO role in the preparation and follow-up of the Summit, as well as for the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations;
- Spark implementation of Agenda 21;
- Make sure that economic and social issues are linked;
- Insist that the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) include social issues amongst its priorities;
- Represent the interests of marginalized sectors of society so that they have a voice in economic and social policy-making;
- Develop joint strategies with organizations, such as the World Bank, to provide more effective aid for social development;
- Focus on the establishment of long-range, workable solutions that prioritize human needs, such as:
  - prevention of rapid population growth;
  - better education and training, especially for women and girls;
  - integration of family-planning and primary health-care programmes;
  - improved employment opportunities; and
  - income-generating vocational and training programmes for women and young people;
- Link preventive diplomacy and peace-building with core Summit issues;
- Demand that the peace dividend from savings on military expenditures be invested in long-term human capital projects;

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- Insist that developing countries reduce military spending and that industrialized countries reduce arms production and sales;
- Urge Governments to compensate for decreased social spending and to restore discontinued social services;
- Encourage Governments to generate additional resources through proper planning and technical assistance.

Source: **Social Development: A New Definition for Security**, Final Report of the 46th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, 8-10 September 1993, New York.

NGOs CONTRIBUTION TO A "NEW DEFINITION FOR SECURITY"

At the conclusion of their 1993 Annual Conference, NGOs also made a number of specific recommendations, highlighting their role in the creation of a "new definition for security", namely that:

- NGOs must demand the peace dividend;
- NGOs must "make waves", acting as strong advocates for social issues;
- NGOs must build coalitions and encourage solidarity;
- NGOs must "think globally" in terms of outreach and "act locally" in terms of concerns;
- NGOs should be encouraged by Governments and donors to help generate community involvement;
- NGOs should assist at all levels in the formation of voluntary organizations, especially with countries in transition;
- NGO involvement should be considered a prerequisite for bilateral and multilateral assistance to developing countries;
- NGOs should be included in all strategic planning developed by donors and Governments;
- NGOs should be recognized and supported by Governments as an alternative source of programme implementation;
- NGOs should be viewed as partners in "complementary competition", raising the level of programme performance and sustainability;
- NGOs should insist on access, transparency and accountability by Governments in implementing social development agendas.

Source: **Social Development: A New Definition for Security**, Final Report of the Annual NGO/DPI Conference, 8-10 September 1993, New York.

NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT

Arrangements for NGOs: Information and Accreditation

- For general information, NGOs may contact the NGO Focal Point, Secretariat of the World Summit, S-3060A, Fax: (212) 963 1010.
- For accreditation, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will be accredited automatically upon written request.
- NGOs **not** in consultative status with ECOSOC that desire accreditation to the World Summit on Social Development should apply to:

United Nations Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development
NGO Unit/DPCSD, Room DC2-2340
New York, New York 10017, USA
Fax: (212) 963 3892

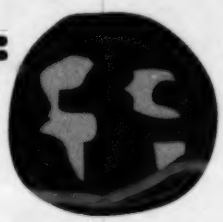
All such applications must be accompanied by the following information:

- Purpose of the organization;
- Information on its programmes and activities of relevance to the Summit, including substantive content and geographic location;
- Proof of activities at the national and/or international level;
- Copies of annual reports with financial statements; and
- Description of membership, indicating the total number of members and their geographic distribution; also a list of members of the governing body and their country of nationality.

NGOs seeking accreditation must confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the Summit. The background of each organization and its involvement in social development issues, particularly the core issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration, will serve as primary criteria in granting accreditation.

Any NGO which has been accredited to attend one session of the PrepCom may attend all future sessions, as well as the Summit.

THE SOCIAL GAP: SOME FACTS AND FIGURES



Did you know that....

- The world spends over $600 billion a year on military programmes despite the fact that:
  - over one billion of its inhabitants lack basic health care;
  - one adult in four is unable to read and write; and
  - one-fifth of the world population goes hungry every day.

  (World Military and Social Expenditures 1993, Sivard)
- Reported crime is growing at a worldwide average of 5 per cent every year since the 1980s, well beyond global population growth rate. **(1990 (Report of the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control)**
- Profits from illegal drug trafficking are estimated at $500 billion a year, a sum equal to the combined gross national products of two-thirds of the Member States of the United Nations. **(1990 Report of the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control)**
- Worldwide, one out of every five people - some one billion in all - live below the poverty line. **(International Conference on Population and Development Press Kit)**
- Three-quarters of the world's income - about $20 trillion - goes to only 16 per cent of the world's population. **(Human Development Report 1993)**
- Women and the disadvantaged are the primary victims of poverty. Women comprise 70 per cent

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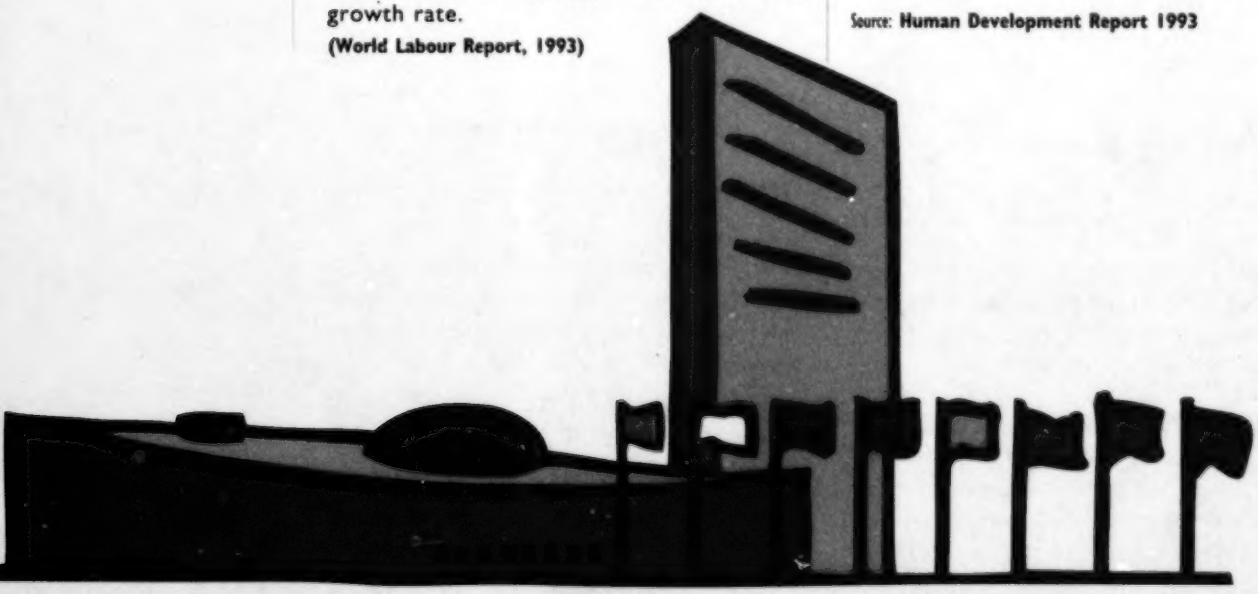
of the world's poor. The number of poor rural women in developing countries has doubled over the last two decades. **(Women: Challenges to the Year 2000/ICPD Press Kit)**

- The numbers of the world's poor will quadruple within one lifetime if current demographic trends continue. **(UNICEF News Feature)**
- An estimated 13-18 million people die each year of poverty-related causes. **(Human Development Report 1993)**
- "Jobless growth" is now a worldwide phenomenon. Economies grow but leave people behind, even in rich countries, eg, from 1967-1980, France, Germany and the UK doubled their economic growth rates while employment rates declined. **(Human Development Report 1993)**
- Twenty per cent of the world's total wage earners receive only 2 per cent of the world's income. **(World Labour Report, 1993)**
- From 1960-1987, the labour force increased by more than 400 million in developing countries. One billion new jobs will be needed over the next decade to keep pace with the current growth rate. **(World Labour Report, 1993)**

What are NGOs doing to narrow the widening global social gap?

- NGOs are growing in number, outreach and efficacy. Today, NGOs benefit more than 250 million people, compared to 100 million just a decade ago;
- NGOs are prime instruments in spreading democracy, reaching the poorest of the poor, providing emergency assistance, empowering marginalized groups and mobilizing public opinion through advocacy.
- NGOs work at the "grassroots", often in remote rural and poor urban areas. They reach some 20 per cent of those 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty;
- NGOs provide development assistance. In 1989 alone, NGOs provided $6.4 billion, more than the world's premier development agency, the World Bank;
- Northern NGOs serve as channels for both private and public aid. The total transferred by northern NGOs increased from $1 billion in 1970 to $7.2 billion in 1990 - in real terms twice the rate of increase for international development assistance.

Source: **Human Development Report 1993**



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